

The Use and Possession of Electronic Devices in Court Facilities

The following guidelines are subject in all cases to a judge or other judicial authority issuing additional specific orders or guidelines for the use of electronic devices in his or her courtroom or hearing:

A person **may have** any of the following electronic devices:

- A cell phone
- A camera phone
- A personal computer with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- A digital or tape audio recorder
- A personal digital assistant (PDA) with or without video or audio recording capabilities
- Any other electronic device that can broadcast, record, or take photographs
- A handheld scanner to reproduce court documents. "Handheld scanner" means a battery operated electronic scanning device that leaves no mark or impression on the document being scanned.

A person **may use** a cell phone:

- **to make phone calls, send and receive e-mails and/or send and receive text messages only, but not in a courtroom, lockup, chambers, or offices**

A person **may use** a handheld scanner:

- to reproduce court documents in a clerk's office as long as the handheld scanner leaves no mark or impression on the document and does not unreasonably interfere with the operation of the clerk's office.

A person is **prohibited from using** a cell phone, or any other electronic device to:

- take pictures, except that a person may use a cell phone or other electronic device to photograph court records in a clerk's office as long as doing so does not unreasonably interfere with the operation of the clerk's office.
- take videos
- make sound recordings
- broadcast sound
- broadcast still or moving images (video)

Exceptions with the permission of the judge or other judicial authority;

- A person may use a personal computer for note-taking in a courtroom.
- A person who is a participant in a hearing or trial may use a personal computer or other electronic device in a courtroom.

- Other electronic devices may be used in a courtroom if permitted by the judge or other judicial authority or permitted by court rules.

Miscellaneous:

A person may use an electronic device to make an audio recording of a public meeting taking place in a court facility.

Any person employed in a state's attorney's office or a public defender's office that is located in a court facility may use a cellular telephone or other electronic device in such office and may authorize another person to use a cellular telephone or other electronic device in such office.

These guidelines do not apply to employees of the Judicial Branch who must comply with Judicial Branch policies concerning the possession and use of electronic devices in court facilities.

These guidelines do not restrict in any way the possession or use of electronic devices in court facilities by judges of the superior court, judge trial referees, state referees, family support magistrates or family support referees or the authority of such judicial authorities to permit others to use electronic devices in chambers.

Hon. Barbara M. Quinn
Chief Court Administrator

Effective August 1, 2008 and revised on January 5, 2009, November 16, 2010 and December 19, 2012

in accordance with section 1-10 of the Connecticut Practice Book.

[Electronic Devices in the Supreme and Appellate Courts](#)